

The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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Remoter Results.

A material change was wrought on Nov. 3 in the political prospects of several American citizens. Some who have been regarded as possible candidates for the Presidency are now eliminated, while others hitherto in the background have been brought to the front.

The prestige of Senator HANNA has been immeasurably increased by the amazing victory of the Republicans in Ohio where their plurality for Governor exceeded a hundred thousand, and where their majority in the Legislature on joint ballot for Senator will exceed ninety. To appreciate the magnitude of this triumph, we should recall the fact that Mr. McKINLEY was only able to carry Ohio in 1896 by less than 48,000, and by less than 70,000 four years later. On the other hand, decades have elapsed since the vote cast for any Democratic nominee for Governor in Ohio was smaller than that secured by Mayor TOM L. JOHNSON, who, considered as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, must be looked upon as extinguished. It is now improbable that he will be permitted to head the Ohio delegation to the Democratic National Convention.

Not only in Ohio has Bryanism been wiped out as a political force, but also in Colorado, which was supposed to be its stronghold, and in Nebraska, where the Republicans gained a decisive victory, making a clean sweep even of the county in which Mr. BRYAN lives. This in spite of the fact that in Nebraska fusion had been effected between the Democrats and the Populists.

In Massachusetts the success of Governor BATES, who is reelected by a plurality almost equal to that which he obtained last year, puts an end to the delusion that, under any probable circumstances, the Democrats could carry the State. With that delusion vanishing the idea of putting forward ex-Secretary of State OLNEY as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency. The Democrats will nominate nobody who has not at least a fair chance of carrying his own State.

There are those who think that the election of Mr. EDWIN WARFIELD, the Democratic candidate for Governor in Maryland, will strengthen Senator GORMAN in the eyes of the Democratic National Convention. It is certain that if the Republicans had carried Maryland, Mr. GORMAN's name would have been expunged from the list of Democratic candidates for the Presidency, and even his influence over the Democratic minority in the United States Senate might have been sensibly impaired. We do not imagine, however, that the Democracy will choose a nominee solely for the purpose of capturing the eight electoral votes of Maryland.

It is of incomparably greater moment to win the thirty-nine electoral votes of New York.

Let Us Be Just to the Philippines.

The extra session of Congress, which begins on Nov. 9, is called for the express purpose of rendering operative the act of justice to Cuba embodied in the reciprocity treaty which our Senate has ratified. It will scarcely be denied that we owe as much to the Philippines as we owe to the Cubans. We have deprived them of the market for two of their principal staples, namely, sugar and tobacco, which they formerly possessed in Spain, and we have practically excluded those commodities from the United States by imposing upon them duties amounting to 75 per cent. of those levied by the Dingley law. On hemp, the third of the chief products of the Philippines, we impose no duty, but we have forbidden the insular government to levy an export duty on such hemp as is sent for consumption to the United States. The net result of the act of Congress which became operative in March, 1902, and which, ostensibly, was framed for the relief of the Filipinos, is that for the sixteen months ended June 30, 1903, the insular treasury was actually worse off by \$400,000 than it would have been had no relief act been passed.

This can easily be demonstrated. It will be remembered that the Fifty-seventh Congress declined to heed the earnest recommendation of the Philippine Commission that a reduction of 75 per cent. of the Dingley rates should be made in the case of commodities imported from the Philippines into the United States. The recommendation had the warm approval of President ROOSEVELT and was strenuously urged by SECRETARY ROOT; nevertheless, no attention was paid to it, because the representatives of our sugar and tobacco interests mistakenly assumed that the proposed reduction of rates would cause our market to be flooded with sugar and tobacco from the Philippines. Accordingly, they prevailed upon Congress so to limit the reduction that, 75 per cent. of the Dingley rates should be levied on Filipino commodities, with the proviso that the duties thus collected should be returned to the insular treasury to be expended for the benefit of the islands. How has this act worked? From March, 1902, up to Aug. 30, 1903, the amount of duties collected in our ports upon Filipino products, and paid over to the insular government, was \$268,662. This was but a small contribution to the insular treasury, yet it would have been better than nothing had it not been more than counterbalanced by a provision of the act of March 8, 1902,

that no export duty should be levied by the Filipino government on products shipped to, and consumed in, this country. It is from exports of hemp that the insular government derives a large part of its income, the export duty being \$7.50 per ton. Now, from March, 1902, until June 30, 1903, 86,044 tons of hemp were shipped to the United States, from which had an export tax been levied, the insular treasury would have received \$645,330. In other words, the net outcome of the act, intended for the benefit of the Filipinos, was a net loss to their insular government in about sixteen months of some \$400,000.

We have said that the representatives of our sugar and tobacco interests were mistaken in supposing that, if the Dingley rates were reduced by 75 per cent., our market would be flooded with sugar and tobacco from the Philippines. As a matter of fact, the total amount of sugar exported from the Philippines to all countries during the three years ended June 30, 1903, was but \$9,000,000, whereas, during the same triennium, the value of the sugar imported into the United States was upward of \$217,000,000. It is obvious that if we had imported, free of duty, every ounce of sugar which the Philippines could have exported, no impression could have been made upon our sugar market. Much the same thing may be said of tobacco. During the three years ended June 30, 1903, the aggregate value of the tobacco exported from the Philippines to all countries was only \$8,000,000, although, during the same triennium, the total value of the tobacco imported by the United States exceeded \$57,000,000.

What Congress ought to do without delay is to cut down the duties on products coming from the Philippines to 25 per cent. of the Dingley rates, and to allow the insular government to levy an export duty on the hemp sent to the United States, until the imports into the islands shall have undergone such expansion as largely to increase the revenue derived from the insular customs duties. But if Congress is unwilling to do this at the extra session, it should at least recognize the plain duty of repealing the provision of the act of March 8, 1902, which forbids the insular government to levy an export duty on hemp sent to the United States. It was by no means the purpose of that act to bring about a shrinkage in the revenue of the islands.

Our "Pledges" to Colombia.

We learn from our esteemed contemporary the *Times* that a specific pledge of this Government's own making binds us morally to recognize the sovereignty of the Republic of Colombia, rather than that of the new Republic of Panama, over the Isthmian territory.

This is very interesting. The *Times* has not only discovered the existence of such a pledge, but it produces the same and prints it conspicuously, quoting from Article V. of the Hay-Herran treaty:

"The United States freely acknowledges and recognizes the sovereignty of the Republic of Colombia and disavows any intention to impair it in any way whatever or to increase its territory at the expense of Colombia or of any of the sister republics in Central or South America; but, on the contrary, it desires to strengthen the power of the Republic on the continent and to promote, develop and maintain their prosperity and independence."

Our esteemed neighbor, after exhibiting the exact language of this pledge to Colombia, goes on to remark:

"That pledge is morally binding upon us. We have it freely consented to the wonderment of foreigners who are always inclined to distrust our motives. That pledge we now trumpet in the mire if we continue to give active aid and support to the Panama insurrection, of which the whole basis and motive is a desire to provide for the construction of the canal by us."

We say this is very interesting. It is likewise important, for the reason that if the *Times* is right in maintaining that a proposed treaty in the way of bargain or agreement, ratified by one party and rejected by the other, is yet morally binding upon the party that ratified it, although not binding upon the party that rejected it, certain unforeseen complications arise.

For instance, on the same principle our obligations to Colombia do not end with the specific pledge above quoted.

We are likewise pledged to pay her \$10,000,000 down and several hundred thousands of dollars annually for a long term of years.

The *Times* will at once perceive that this pledged payment of cash will be of inestimable advantage to Colombia if she undertakes extensive military and naval operations to coerce either the new and independent Republic of Panama or the United States of America.

The Moral Needs of New York. A letter we print to-day suggests to the clergy of the districts of the town inhabited by the more prosperous people of this community, the districts where churches are most numerous proportionately to the population, that they turn their attention to the vice in their own neighborhoods rather than exhaust their denunciations on its existence in poorer parts of the town, the Red Light district of the East Side, for example.

The suggestion is not without pertinency to the actual situation. The most prosperous vice in New York is in this very region of churches and of a cultivated and well-to-do population. Relatively, there is more of it there than in any other part of the town.

On Manhattan Island, too, the region where the number of liquor licenses proportionately to the population is greatest, except in the three Assembly districts on the West Side below Fourteenth street, is the region of the five Fifth Avenue Assembly districts, where also the number of churches is much the greatest proportionately.

The five Fifth Avenue Assembly districts contained in 1900 a population of 241,422, on an area of 2,794 acres, or 86.4 acres to an acre. The population of the eight East Side districts to the south of Fourteenth street was 533,394, on an area of 1,383 acres, or 382.9 persons to an acre. The number of persons to a dwelling was 13 in the Fifth Avenue districts and 39.8 on the East Side. The number of churches and synagogues in

the former is 132, but in the lower East Side districts, with much more than twice the population, it is only 119. In the Fifth Avenue districts, however, there is a liquor license to every 280 of the population, as enumerated in 1900, and in the lower East Side districts only one to 375 persons.

That is, the Fifth Avenue region is far ahead in both churches and liquor saloons. The relative prevalence of the vice of which our correspondent speaks is not determinable by any statistics obtainable, but unquestionably it is very much greater proportionately in the Fifth Avenue region.

These are facts which seem to justify the suggestion of our correspondent that the clergy in the most prosperous part of the town have at their very doors a field which is even more in need of moral cultivation than the region of the town where the population is most crowded and in poorest.

An Election Philosopher Astray.

Among the many philosophers who are drawing wise moral conclusions from the election of Tuesday is the *Evening Post*, but its philosophy is not novel. We hear the same sort of moralizing after every election whose results have brought disappointment to the mugwump heart more especially.

Neglect of citizens in the well-to-do districts to vote on Tuesday was largely responsible for the catastrophe, according to the *Evening Post*. Now, in fact, all these districts, eight in number, were carried by Low, and the percentage of diminution in the poll from the registration was just about the same as in the rest of Manhattan and The Bronx.

Our mugwump friend mentions particularly the districts on the upper West Side as especially negligent; yet to those districts the falling off of the vote from the registration was only about 1 per cent. above the average for the rest of the two boroughs, and in the three West Side districts just below them, the Seventeenth, Fifteenth and Thirteenth, strong Tammany districts, the percentage of the falling off was even greater.

In making calculations of the diminution of the poll as compared with the registration, amateur political philosophers and statisticians forget to include the votes for outside candidates for Mayor, though these were numerically many. Actually, last Tuesday's poll in Manhattan and The Bronx was 93.7 per cent. in the registration, as against 94.1 per cent. in 1901, a difference so small as to have had no effect on the result of the election as a Tammany victory.

Cupid's Shorthand.

We must apologize for repeating rather often the old song: "O Kansas, thou bringest all good things." Kansas is the tropical zone of genius, and its human fauna and flora are of unexampled luxuriance. Bring on the "chops and tomato sauce"; from the Sunflower belt comes a new dish to set beside them.

In the Montgomery county district court Miss IVEY SMITH is suing the Hon. LOUIS GRIMES for breach of promise. She avers that he proposed marriage in November, 1902, and that the wedding was to be last February, but on Christmas Day he married another girl. Pause here to notice a case of Kansas thrift.

By marrying on Christmas Day the purchase of a special "anniversary" present in succeeding years is avoided.

Miss SMITH had put \$50 into her trousseau. For damages to purse and heart she asks a jury of her countrymen to award her \$2,000. The documents are numerous. In the fervid language of the *Chanute Blade*, Miss SMITH has "a stack of letters from Mr. GRIMES which, if piled together, one upon top of the other, would reach as high as an oil derrick." We can well believe from the specimens published that they are "couched in language which, in comparison, makes the product of the busy bee appear like lemon juice." Here are some elegant extracts:

"Baby mine,
 Darling, Heaven-sent,
 Dearest, Adored,
 Ducky mine,
 Face, Angel."

At the end of every letter stands the cabalistic word "SWAK" or "SWALK." Always in capitals. Miss SMITH swears that the interpretation of the first enigma is "Sealed with a kiss"; of the second, "Sealed with a loving kiss." These fragments of CUPIID's shorthand in Kansas sting the curiosity of scholars. If Mr. GRIMES has to pay \$2,000, he can console himself with the thought that he has enriched the English language and the vocabulary code.

President TANSLEY of the United Textile Workers has the right idea. Last summer the price of cotton rose and some conscienceless, inhuman, shrewd men made money in the market. Mr. TANSLEY noted this, and, addressing the annual convention of his organization, he said:

"Another matter which should receive some attention from the delegates of this convention is that which has unquestionably brought want into many homes during the last six months, wherever cotton spinning is carried on, through the action of a class of men known as bulls, whose bullish greed and whose conscience, if they have any, is steeled to such a degree that they have no scruples whatever in the operation of the children of operative who are depending on the cotton industry to maintain life, should die of starvation through what can only be termed and should be considered a criminal offense."

Mr. TANSLEY should repeal the law of supply and demand at once.

Two of the detectives attached to the West 125th street police station arrested a man on Thursday evening because he refused to give the key to a clubroom to them. The club had been anonymously denounced as a gamblers' organization to the captain of the precinct, and when the unfortunate man under arrest was taken to the station the sergeant refused to admit him to bail, in violation of the law. It would seem that in this case police stupidity and lawlessness reached its climax, and it would be a most wholesome thing if the detectives and the sergeant were punished for their illegal and oppressive acts. At any rate, Magistrate CHANEY voiced a very general wish when he said:

"I hope the man who is to be at the head of the police during the next administration will use some judgment in the matter of these arrests, and I hope that this will be the last time that such arrests will be made in this city. They have been an outrage."

THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONGO.

The Missionary Phase of the Question. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Some effort is apparent to draw the United States into the controversy between England and Belgium regarding the condition of affairs in the Congo Free State. The effort is based on the ratification by the United States of the Brussels Act of 1900.

The Congo Free State was established by the Berlin Conference of 1885, and the United States was not a party to that act. The essential feature of the Brussels Act of 1900 was the provision for the right of Belgium to annex the Congo State after the expiration of ten years if she saw fit to do so. The United States was signatory to that agreement, although it would seem that we had no particular concern in the matter one way or the other.

But the recognition of Belgium's right to annex an equatorial wilderness, in which this country neither has nor has any special interest, does not seem to me to create any American responsibility for Belgian violation of the provisions of the Berlin Act, to which the United States was not a party.

I do not see any reason why the United States should be drawn into the matter. This country has no material interests in the Congo Free State. Our moral interests are of questionable validity. They appear in connection with missionaries and their labors. It is asserted that these have encountered interference in their work. It is by no means certain that the United States is either legally or morally bound to support or even to protect its citizens who voluntarily engage in missionary work in so-called heathen lands. It is certain that the nobility of such work is incalculably modified by an appeal of the workers for either the military or the diplomatic support of their Government. When the first missionaries were sent to "preach the Gospel to every creature," they were sent as individuals going on their own personal responsibility, as lambs among wolves, and, nothing was said of an appeal to Caesar or of support by the colors of Rome. It is true that Paul appealed from Festus to Caesar, but it is not recorded that he or such men as Francis Xavier or Jean de Brebeuf asked their Governments to stand behind them in their labors in the mission field.

Individuals engaged in brutality and wrongdoing may not be necessary attendants, but they seem inevitably to accompany the processes of race development. They should be averted and suppressed if it be possible to do so, and a Government which permits and is charged with winking at, if not with directly encouraging, such proceedings should be called to order. England, at least, has been called to order for commanding a larger sympathy and support for that of which complaint is made were less common in her own history, and if one could believe a little more confidently in the unselfishness of her motives for her interference.

The Congo State would make a beautiful area for enclosure within England's ring fence. Africa, the Congo, and the Congo, which is the English center of that carrying on a war in which victory was uncertain and defeat would have been ruin.

There was a moment early in the year when war with Russia was seriously contemplated, and the Japanese fleet was then relatively superior to the Russian, and other conditions, except the financial, were favorable. But the government of the Mikado, having its hands full with the Russo-Japanese war, was unable to decide and act alone. The consequence was a period of hesitancy, during which the Russians reinforced their fleet and strengthened their army in Manchuria. Then, when a moment of decision came, the Japanese fleet was then relatively superior to the Russian, and other conditions, except the financial, were favorable. But the government of the Mikado, having its hands full with the Russo-Japanese war, was unable to decide and act alone.

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CAN BEGIN WORK ON CANAL MAY 1.

State Engineer Bond Says He Will Be Ready Then to Award Contracts. ALBANY, Nov. 6.—Work can be begun by May 1 on the State large canal, which the people of the State voted for last Tuesday and which is provided for in a law passed by the last Legislature. No more legislation is necessary. State Engineer Edward A. Bond said to-night that he was ready for the awarding of the first contracts for the large canal work by next spring. It had been expected that before work on the large canal could be prosecuted another and more complete survey than the one taken two years ago would have to be made. That survey, while it was preliminary, and cost \$170,000, State Engineer Bond says was complete, and that he is satisfied the work can be done within the \$100,000 appropriation.

There was a question of doubt as to cost of construction at any point," he said, "the highest figure of the cost was estimated upon, so that there would be no preliminary cost, and no unforeseen contingencies. A second survey is not needed, and all that now will be necessary will be to complete the preliminary survey work by carrying it forward in all details. It will take about seven years to complete the canal improvement work. There is no doubt that it can be carried on both winter and summer without interfering with navigation, such as the canalizing of the Mohawk River from the Hudson River to the city of Albany, and the construction of the Erie Canal, and the construction of the new section each side of Rochester, between Fairport and Greece, a distance of fifteen miles.

"Then, again, it would be wise to first complete the survey work and let the contractor for the canal improvement work, the most difficult work, such as the 'sixteen' at Cohoes, the heavy rock cutting and the locks at Little Falls and the work at Newark and the new locks at Lockport."

The canal bonds to be sold by the State Controller are to be issued by the Commission of the Canal Fund, which is headed by Gov. Frank W. Higgins of Olean, State Comptroller Nathan L. Miller of Cortland, State Treasurer Wicker of Buffalo, Secretary of the Canal Fund, and State Engineer Bond. It is said that a block of stock in the corporation controlling this electric motor patent is being held for a number of prominent politicians, and influence is sought to secure its purchase and adoption by the State.

To-day there was another private test of the electric motor made at Schenectady, which was witnessed by Attorney-General Cullen, Secretary of State O'Brien, State Superintendent of Public Works Boyd, Gov. H. Raymond of Buffalo, State Engineer Bond. It is said that a block of stock in the corporation controlling this electric motor patent is being held for a number of prominent politicians, and influence is sought to secure its purchase and adoption by the State.

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